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ethically and economically a different world. The chief event in the process of organization was the formation of the state, so the author devotes the last five chapters to this work. In this there is little peculiar to Illinois. The new constitution was almost a duplicate of those of Indiana and Ohio. The bogey of slavery was present in all but there was only a remote probability that the institution would gain a foothold anywhere in the movement.

The author has observed all the rules of good historical composition. The purpose evidently was to set forth a fair picture, truthful and lasting. Many a good pioneer story has evidently been passed up; many a dramatic situation has had to be neglected. Those who desire a thrilling story of course will be disappointed. Likewise the author has disappointed those readers who look in history for the delineation of great social forces—a modern name for the discarded philosophy of history. No one except a novice in the field of history or a charlatan indulges in these sweeping generalizations. A good bibliography and index add to the general excellence of the volume.

*The Frontier State 1818-1848 The centennial history of Illinois* By THEODORE CALVIN PEASE, University of Illinois. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Company. 1919. 745 p. \$2.00.

This volume is one of a series written and published by the Centennial Historical commission to place in the hands of the citizenship of Illinois a reliable account of the transformation of a wilderness land into the present state of Illinois. It illustrates the advantages and disadvantages of coöperative authorship. The disadvantages of cross-sectioning are about equaled by the advantages of more careful investigation. Dr. Pease has rightly relied, entirely it seems, on primary sources—newspapers, state records and manuscripts. Any one who has not tried can never realize how difficult it is to wring a connected consequential story out of such materials. The writer who produces alleged history from reports of commissions, public speeches and magazine articles may even die in the belief that he has been a historian. The public has very little appreciation of the vast gulf between the two kinds of

history. It is unfortunate that the same name has to be given to the products of both. There is the same fundamental difference between the work of Dr. Pease and that of the commercial or hack historian as between the artist and the photographer.

The period covered by the volume is the thirty years from 1818 to 1848. The problems were primarily political. The author has devoted twelve of the twenty-two chapters to political development. During this time the state was organized and political parties developed. During the first period political activity centered around the leaders and the whole is correctly named the period of personal politics. Even what is known in American history as Jacksonian Democracy is only a national case of personal politics. Similarly the tremendous following of Harrison was primarily personal. During the thirty years the questions of slavery, both national and state, finance, including the bank struggle, internal improvements and the public lands were threshed out on the Illinois hustings. These questions are the more difficult because no party stood for them but rather on each there was a new alignment. Individuals change fronts in bewildering perplexity. Each issue and each individual were influenced to a greater or less extent by still more local issues. The location of the state capital, the location and management of the banks and above all the location of the internal improvements. How considerable these cross-currents operated is shown by a comparison of the conclusions of Dr. Pease with those of the standard historians of the United States. Those who yearn for another period of so-called independent voting should study the history of the north-western states during the period of personal politics.

Besides the essentially political issues the next in importance were banks and internal improvements. Here Dr. Pease found a trace of party regularity, the Democrats usually opposing both, though neither party was able to make either a test of party regularity. Illinois like its neighbors, tried to meet a real economic need with its state bank but failed and had nothing to show for its effort but regretful experience. How far this failure was due to poor management, the situation or party politics the author does not say, perhaps it is impossible to tell. Practically the same general experience

was had with the internal improvements. Here the experience of Illinois was similar to that of Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, so similar that a change of proper names and figures would make the story apply to either state.

The stories of the Mormon war and the Black Hawk war **are peculiar** to Illinois and are well told. The general attitude of the people toward the Mormons and the Indians was the same in all the western states.

Little can be said in adverse criticism. One is tempted to say that too much space is given to politics. One would like to read of the every-day life of the folks, for the big work after all was that of transforming the woods and prairies into farms. The chapters on Illinois in ferment and social advance are devoted to this subject and for that reason will probably appeal most to the mass of readers. For the corresponding period in Indiana history I was able to find little in either home, church or school that would yield material for the historian. The home life was dull, hard and monotonous, the schools were mostly themes for discussion and neighborhood quarrel. Everything was personal and individual. So in the case of Illinois one might in criticising the author for lack of more attention to these subjects only betray the critic's ignorance.

The style of the volume is not as light and easy as it should be for popular use. Many of the sentences are involved so that one frequently has to go back and re-read them before he grasps the meaning. This may be due in part to the large amount of detail contained. The reader at times when expecting a clear cut conclusion is also disappointed in the caution of the author. Especially is this true where blame is in question as in the bank or internal improvements management.

The state is to be congratulated on the excellence of the work of Dr. Pease. The thanks of the people of the whole north-west are due the author for the long, tedious, dishwashing work necessary in the preparation of such a volume.

*The Era of the Civil War, 1848-1870.* By ARTHUR CHARLES COLE, University of Illinois, Illinois Centennial Commission, 1919. pp. 499.

The author of this volume took up the story where Dr. Pease left off. His first task was to divest his state of its